# NECHAKO RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

**March 2003**

Approved by:

_____ Date: _____

John Metcalfe
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

_____ Date: _____

Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

# Nechako River Ecological Reserve
## Purpose Statement

The Nechako River Ecological Reserve is located 30 km west of Prince George, 2.5 km northeast of Isle Pierre on the north side of the Nechako River. The ecological reserve is 133 ha in size, and protects the most vigorous known tamarack stands west of the Rocky Mountains for genetic representation.

The ecological reserve lies on relatively flat benchlands above the Nechako River, on glacial lake clays.

The feature of primary interest is a shallow, boggy, flat-bottomed depression, apparently an old meltwater channel or former course of the Nechako River. The depression supports fairly open stands of tamarack trees of good size for this species. There are small standing water areas among the bog forest.

Upland forests on level ground are dominated by white and Engelmann spruce or their hybrids, with areas of mixed forest. Parts of the upland have been logged, but the tamarack-black spruce bog forest appears to be in a natural state.

This ecological reserve was established in December 1975. Adjacent lands to the west and south of this ecological reserve, the Nechako River Valley Special Resource Management Zone, are managed for scenery and recreation under direction of the Prince George Land and Resource Management Plan. Lands to the north and east are managed for agriculture and settlement as the Prince George Core Resource Management Zone.

**Primary Role**
The primary role of Nechako River Ecological Reserve is to protect the best known growth of tamarack in the Sub-Boreal Spruce Zone, and is important for preservation of genetic stock for future establishment of the species in other locations.

| Known Management Issues | Response |
|---|---|
| Mountain pine beetle | No action to be taken in the ecological reserve. |
| Cattle grazing on adjacent lands | Monitor for introduced species |
| Access across private land is required to get to the ecological reserve | Investigate the feasibility of negotiating a formal agreement respecting access across the adjacent lands. |

## CONSERVATION

**Representation**

- ecosection — Contributes minimally to the representation of the Nechako Lowlands Ecosection (NEL) – 4.68% of this ecosection is protected provincially; this ecological reserve contributes only 0.23% of the overall representation of this ecosection.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant — Contributes minimally to the representation of the SBS dw3 (4.24%); the ecological reserve contributes only 0.45% of the overall representation of this variant.

**Special Feature** — X — Most vigorous known tamarack stands west of the Rocky Mountains

**Rare/Endangered Values** — Unknown

**Scientific/Research Opportunities** — X — Tree genetics and forest ecology

## RECREATION

**Representation**:

- backcountry — X — Nature appreciation opportunities
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

**Special Opportunities**

**Education/Interpretation Opportunities** — X — Forest genetics

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

**Representation**

**Special Feature**

## OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

**Other Designations**

**Relationship to Other PAs** — X — Adds to representation of Nechako Lowland Ecosection by Carp Lake Provincial Park, and nearby parks of Stuart River, Eskers and Dahl Lake.

One of 148 ecological reserves established to protect

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | natural ecosystems and phenomena for research and education purposes across the province |
| **Co-operative Management Arrangements** | | |
| **Partnerships** | X | Ecological Reserve Warden (Laird Law appointed September 1986) |
| **Vulnerability** | X | The Conservation Risk Assessment Process identified 2 risk factors (the shape and the size of the ecological reserve) for the ecological reserve and rated them as moderately significant. One stressor/threat was identified for the ecological reserve: grazing/feeding which was rated as low significance. |
| **Relationship to Other Strategies** | | |

**Area:** 133 hectares

**Date of establishment:** December 4, 1975